GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1456
ANSWERED ON:26.07.2016
Environmental Pollution
Singh Dr. Prabhas Kumar

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that environment in and around Jharsuguda, Odisha has been severely affected due to the huge open cast mining of coal and the operation of IB Thermal Power Plant and if so, the details thereof; and
(b) the steps taken by the Government to check the environmental pollution in the said area?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE)

(a) Jharsuguda in Odisha has been identified as one of the critically polluted area based on the Comprehensive Environmental Pollution Index (CEPI). Coal mines (11), thermal power plants (05) and Iron & steel plants including sponge Iron plants (16) are the major industries located in the area.

(b) To control pollution and improve environmental conditions in the area, sector specific action plan has been prepared and is under various stages of implementation. Some of the the salient points of action plan for coal mining and thermal power plants are as under:

Coal Mines:-
(i) Construction of a dedicated coal transport corridor in IB valley coalfields.
(ii) Production of at least 60% coal by surface miner technology.
(iii) Enhancement of rake loading facility in the coal mines.
(iv) Undertaking a comprehensive coal mine fire control plan by Mahanadi Coalfields Limited.
(v) Creation of reservoir for storage of mine drainage water and runoff which can be used for industrial purposes.
(vi) Making provision for supply of drinking water in the peripheral villages of coal mining area.
(vii) Back filling of the mine voids and restoration of the mined out area.

Thermal Power Plants:-
(i) Conversion of all lean slurry disposal system to High Concentration Slurry Disposal (HCSD) or mine void filling.
(ii) Installation of Electrostatic Precipitator/Blast Furnace to meet the emission standard of 50 mg/m3 with one spare field.
(iii) Online monitoring with real time display facility to be installed
(iv) Monitoring of real time ambient air quality.

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